

To: Georgia Marszalek

Date: September 21, 1981

From: Harry B. Stewart

Subject: Emergency O.S. manual revision

In Appendix L (OS DATABASE VARIABLE FUNCTIONAL DESCRIPTIONS) of the Atari PCS Operating System Manual there is a section S labeled "UNUSED (SPARE) BYTES". This section lists memory locations in the database area that are unused by the Revision A operating system. Although it is the intent that the indicated memory locations be reserved for use by future revisions of the O.S., there is no statement to that effect in the manual. Thus, there is a high likelihood that this memory will be viewed as being available for general use. In order to avoid major compatibility problems in the near future, caused by vendors utilizing those locations in applications software, we must either delete that information from the manual or include an explanation as to why the memory cannot be utilized by the user. If it is too late to ammend the manual itself, I recommend that Atari include a correction sheet with each manual.

Section S was one of the several sections missing from the earlier version of the O.S. manual, so I believe there is no problem with the manuals distributed to date.

cc: Tom Gracon
Embe Humphrey
Milt Brewster

To: Tom Gracon

Date: September 25, 1981

From: Harry B. Stewart

Subject: O.S. manual warning

Pursuant to our conversation of September 25, a sample warning message is shown below. Feel free to modify this in any way that meets the intent.

* * * W A R N I N G * * *

Section S of Appendix L lists the RAM memory locations of a number of bytes which are incorrectly identified as being spares. In fact, these bytes are reserved for use by future revisions of the operating system and should not be utilized by other software.